

IMAGEN OF Boulder County

Issue #1

January 2006

Honoring the Navajo Code Talkers

Researched by Tony Tafoya



Navajo code talker Sgt. Allen Dale June and his wife Virginia at a reception held in their honor on January 13, 2006, at the American Legion Post No.32, in Longmont, Colorado.

*Hozo-go nayh-yeltay to
A-ma-oh bi-keh de-dlihn
Ni-hi-keh di-dlini ta-etin*

*Yeh-wol-ye hi-he a-din
Sila-go-tsoi do chah-lakai]Ya-ansh-go das dez
e e
Washindon be Akalh-bi Kosi la
Hozo-g-kay-ha-tehn*

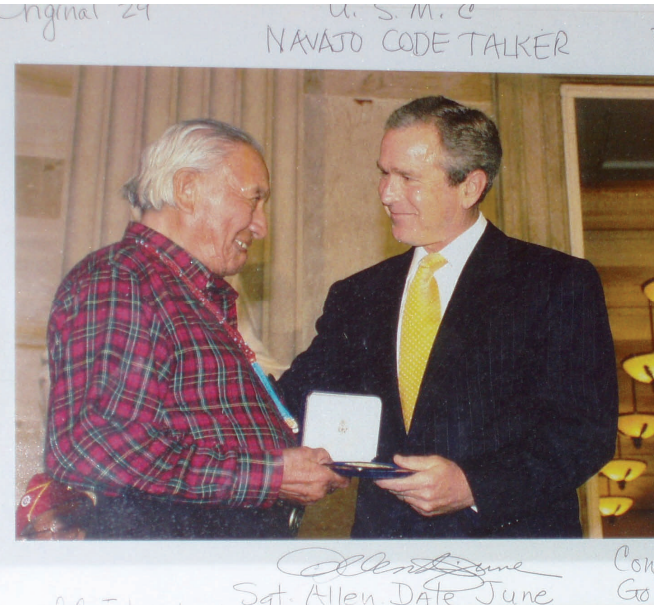
May we live in peace hereafter
We have conquered all our foes,
No force in the world we cannot conquer,
We know of no fear
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,
United States Marines will be
There Living in peace.

(From the Marine Hymn, translated by Jimmy King into Navajo.)

An internet search for information on the Navajo code talkers produced consistently similar statements reflecting positive comments on their impact in saving lives in the Pacific theater of World War II. "Military commanders credited the Code with having saved the lives of countless American soldiers and with the successful engagements of the U.S. in the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, had six Navajo Code Talkers working around the clock during the first forty-eight hours of the battle. Those six sent and received more than 800 messages, all without error. Major Connor declared, 'Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima.'" The 400 plus Navajo code talkers served in all six Marine divisions from 1942 to 1945. The Navajo code was declassified by the U.S. Government in 1968. The key to the code was when English words were translated to Navajo, a language that was not familiar to the Japanese. Alexander Molnar Jr., U.S. Marine Corps and Army (Ret.) states that the idea of using Navajo came from Philip Johnson, the son of a missionary to the Navajos and one of the few non-Navajos who spoke Navajo fluently. Johnson, reared on the Navajo reservation, was a WWI veteran who knew of the need for a secure code because of the successful use of Choctaw in WWI to encode messages. In 1942 Johnson convinced Major General Clayton Vogel to use Navajo in an experiment where he received and sent a message in twenty

seconds compared with 30 minutes using the encoding machines. The code talkers only recently earned recognition from the U.S. Government and the public.

On July 26, 2001, President George Bush, awarded Sgt. Allen Dale June the gold Medal of Honor. The medal is the nation's highest military distinction.



The Longmont *Daily Times Call* article on January 11, 2006, by Pam Mellskog stated that public school teachers on the Navajo reservation once chained Allen Dale June, then a third-grader, to the basement water faucet for speaking Navajo instead of English.

When I met Sgt. June and his wife Virginia on Friday night at the American Legion Post, and saw the diversity of hundreds of people who attended the benefit, I realized more than ever that no matter how accented a person's English may be or what color their skin may be, one cannot judge the courage and loyalty of a person by simple observation. In Spanish we have a saying, *Hablando se entiende*, Understanding comes about by communicating. The history of the Navajo code talkers and their loyalty to the United States is similar to the history of Latinos and their

history of valor in defending our freedoms by serving in the military. Latinos are highly decorated for valor and of minority groups are the most honored with the Medal of Honor in proportion to their service.

To honor one is to honor all. Those who served in any U.S. conflict deserve our respect and a special place of honor. We also need to remember those who did not return to their homes and loved ones. Their background does not matter. It only matters that they were willing to put their lives in harm's way so that we could continue to have our freedoms and way of life.

Heroes like Sgt. June should hold a special place in our hearts and our society. As one of two remaining code talkers, Sgt. June remains a humble man. But members of the American Legion Post No. 32 want to do something special. They are hoping the benefit and other fundraisers will help raise \$25,000 to purchase a new trailer for Sgt. June and Virginia. Ed and Penny Jimmie (720-435-3206) are leading the effort to recognize Sgt. June's achievements and contributions to preserving our freedoms.

Readers of *Imagen* are encouraged to contact the Jimmie's and make a contribution. I was particularly touched to learn that when Bob Allsup, another aging Marine, met Sgt. June, he gave him his black leather jacket with the Marine Corps Insignia after Sgt. June made a complimentary comment on the jacket.

This is an historic event. We can be part of honoring a true hero whose natural language skills were not extinguished by being tied down to a water faucet in a basement. His unselfish sharing of his God given gifts saved countless lives, many of whom probably never knew the source of their good fortune.

**TA-BILH SEIS DZHEL HA-NEH-AL-ENJI DO
NAH-SAI**

**In Unity there is strength,
communication and progress**

Publisher's Notes from Colorado, National Image and Around the Country

- ♦ To View the Denver *Noticiero* online go to <http://eeo.boulder.noaa.gov>. Click on Employment.
- ♦ January 23rd—DFEB's 14th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. diversity training seminar featuring guest speaker Mr. B.D. Wong, star of *Law and Order*, *SVCU*. For more information, call Irene Wise at 303.844.0379 or visit www.denver.feb.gov.
- ♦ February 23rd—Minority Business and Professionals Network, 6th Annual Economic Empowerment and National Women's Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. For more information, call Debra Williams at 703.786.7031.
- ♦ May 14-21, - 2006 National Image Training Conference. Theme, *Education, Commitment and Leadership, Making a Difference in our Nation*. To be held at the Hyatt Regency, N.W., 122 N. 2nd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. For more information visit www.nationalimageinc.org.
- ♦ Colorado State University, Pueblo, Hasan School of Business, Dept. of Computer Information Systems is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic, and experienced individual to fill one tenure-track Assistant Professor of Computer and Information Systems position. Doctorate or ABD required. Details are available at: <http://ceeps.colostate-pueblo.edu/cis>.

LOCAL EVENTS IN BOULDER

The office of Secretary for Boulder County Image is vacant. Please call Becky at 303.497.6439 to volunteer for this office.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

1. The Secretary shall cause the proceedings of all sessions to be recorded, and shall produce such records upon the request of any member in good standing.
2. The Secretary, under the direction of the President shall:
 - a. Prepare all necessary reports as required by the President and Executive Board.
 - b. Transfer to successor, within thirty days, all papers, books, and other property of the organization.
 - c. Be in charge of the answering of all correspondence as required and directed by the President.
 - d. Be delegated other tasks related to correspondence by the President and Executive Board.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Equal Opportunity) is seeking an equal employment manager at the GS-14/15 level. The focus of the position will be Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaskan Native employment programs. The application deadline is January 26, 2006, 11:59 p.m. ET

Agency Announcement Number:

CPMS-06-613

For questions regarding this announcement please contact: 614.692.0201 or e-mail CSO-HQ@hr.dla.mil

Everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the power of the world always works in circles, and everything tries to be round. In the old days when we were a strong and happy people, all our power come to us from the sacred hoop of the nation, and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people flourished.

Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood and so it is in everything where power moves. Our tepees were round like the nests of birds, and these were always set in a circle, the nation's hoop.

Black Elk, 1863-1950

The supreme value is not the future but the present. The future is a deceitful time that always says to us, "not yet," and thus denies us. The future is not the time of love: what man truly wants he wants now. Whoever builds a house for future happiness builds a prison for the present.

Octavio Paz, Mexico, Posdata, 1970

Las cosas que deseamos

Las cosas que deseamos
tarde o nunca las habemos,
y las que menos queremos
más presto las alcanzamos.

Porque fortuna desvía
aquello que nos aplice,
mas lo que pesar nos hace
ella mesma nos lo guía:
así por lo que penamos
alcanzar no lo podemos,
y lo que menos queremos
muy más presto la alcanzamos.

Juan del Encina, Spain, ~1500s.

The Goals and Objectives of Boulder County Image

- A. To seek a broad development and expansion of employment opportunities for the aspirants among the Latino population.
- B. To assist and encourage the government services in providing the best possible circumstances for the recruitment, training, employment and advancement of Latinos.
- C. To encourage and actively support the promotion and advancement of Latinos already employed.
- D. To counter employment issues based on social, ethnic, religious, age and gender discrimination, direct or indirect.
- E. To analyze and determine the educational and professional needs of Latinos seeking entry and advancement in employment; and, whenever possible, provide appropriate training and counseling services to meet these needs – particularly among the youth.
- F. To establish and continually upgrade a broad basis of communications with Latino employees across the nation.
- G. To respond to the reasonable requests of non-members and groups whose problems, goals, and objectives are supportable within the By Laws of Boulder County Image.
- H. To enhance the promotion of ethnic pride, culture, and camaraderie through the organized and regular social gatherings which will serve to bind members together.
- I. To provide a non-partisan platform on major issues of local and national significance so that members may be better informed and may express their views.
- J. To expand the concept and objectives of National Image, Inc., to communities throughout the United States to provide maximum impact on the benefits derived from the pursuit of these goals and objectives as stated above.

Key Committee Functions

The key functions performed by Boulder County Image officers and members of standing committees include: **Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues; Membership and Outreach;** and **Consultation**. The President of Boulder County Image will assign members on an ad hoc basis as the need arises. The following is a brief description of each function:

Advocacy on Employment and Education Issues

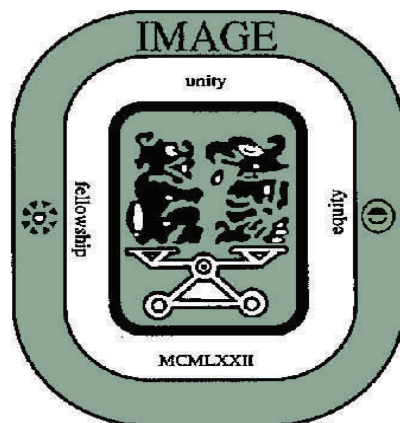
The advocacy function is performed when members take a pro-active role in seeing that a client's issue is addressed by the appropriate community, education or government organization. This function typically involves the following: Mediating an issue at the lowest level before it escalates; Negotiating issues on behalf of clients; Assisting local businesses with employee issues; Assisting students and parents with local school issues, e.g. fighting, drop out, and equal treatment policies; Educating the community on Latino issues; Researching legal information (not advice) on various employment topics; Accompanying clients (employees and applicants) and serving as their representative. Boulder County Image will monitor civil rights issues in the community and provide a community service by organizing Latinos and educating them on issues.

Membership and Outreach

The membership committee is charged with an ongoing program of recruiting and retaining members. This committee coordinates a yearly membership drive for new members. The outreach function is performed by going out into the community to explain Image programs and communicating the assistance that can be provided. Typically, this function involves attending meetings and briefings, networking with agency representatives, providing orientation briefings to newcomers, attending training sessions and education workshops - both as participants and presenters.

Consultation

Consultation services are typically provided to clients who are in need of explanations related to documents that need an interpretation and require follow up actions. Consultations are private.



***IMAGEN* is a
publication of**

Boulder County Image
#348
637-B South Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305
Phone 303.497.6439

IMAGEN seeks to inform
Latinos on employment, education
and civil rights issues.

Editor: Tony Tafoya

MISSION

National Image, Inc. was established in 1972, to address Latino concerns in employment, education, and civil rights. Boulder County Image is an affiliate of National Image, Inc. and operates in Colorado within Region VIII. Its mission is to work with federal, state, county and local government organizations and community members to improve the status of Latinos in focused mission areas.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOULDER COUNTY IMAGE**

OFFICERS:

The following were elected as interim officers at the first meeting on July 13, 2005. They will serve while the petition to affiliate with National Image, Inc. is being reviewed.

President - Becky Rios

1st Vice President - Richard Shields

2nd Vice President - Katy Stewart

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Michelle Masias

TASK FORCE CHAIRS/MEMBERS:

The following have been appointed as chairs of the standing task forces. Members will be contacted to join one of these task forces.

Social/Cultural - Michelle Masias

Education - Richard Shields

Employment - Vacant

Civil Rights - Katy Stewart

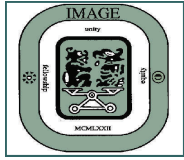
NATIONAL OFFICERS:

National President - John Griego

Region VIII Director - Joseph Davalos

Colorado State Director - Tony Montoya

Special Assistant Office of the Chairman -
Ramón Montoya



Boulder County Image
#348
637-B South Broadway
Boulder CO 80305

Membership Application Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name	
Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Employer Name	
Work Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Membership Information #1-06

Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Membership dues are \$15.00 (\$8.00 for National dues, \$2.00 for State dues and \$5.00 for Chapter.)

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